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November 29, 2011

[redacted]
Chairman, Publications Review Board

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Washington, DC 20505

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Dear [redacted]

Enclosed are a hard copy and digital version of my manuscript "Hard Measures: How Aggressive CIA Actions After 9/11 Saved American Lives" which I am submitting for PRB review.

We appreciate the important work that you and your colleagues do to ensure that legitimately classified and sensitive information not be inappropriately released.

While we write about a number of sensitive subjects, I think you will find that much of the information included in the manuscript has (in one form or another) been released in Congressional reports and testimony, on-the-record statements from White House and other senior administration officials, FOIA releases, court documents, officially approved releases from international organizations and in the cleared books of other former officials.

In "Hard Measures" we go out of our way to try to correct the false and misleading impressions created in the news media and in statements by ill-informed or ill-intentioned current and former government employees.

To the extent that we include information which has not been previously released, we hope that you will agree and find that it does no harm to national security and in fact strengthens the public's understanding of the carefully considered and competently conducted work of the Central Intelligence Agency.

We believe that the information contained in the manuscript is properly under the purview of CIA and should not require being submitted to any other Agency. If you come to a different conclusion, we would appreciate being consulted before the manuscript is shared elsewhere.

Should you find material which, in your professional opinion, should not be published as is – we look forward to working with you and your staff to modify the language as minimally as possible to convey the same general information without doing any harm. It would serve neither you, us, nor the public to have the book published with the black redaction marks which have been noted in some other recent works.

FYI, my co-author, Bill Harlow and I have kept the Agency's senior leadership apprised of our ongoing efforts. Although the 7th floor has not reviewed the actual text, officials including the D/DCIA and D/NCS are fully aware of the scope of this project and have expressed their support.

We hope you can give us a prompt turnaround on this submission. If portions of it are cleared ahead of others, we would be grateful if you could relay those decisions to us as they are made. We understand that there is no final clearance until you have passed judgment on the entire manuscript as a whole, but any assistance in giving us status reports along the way would be most welcomed.

For most questions on the manuscript, I recommend that you or your staff contact Bill Harlow directly. He can be reached at [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED] Naturally, I stand ready to respond to any issues you may have. I can be reached at [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

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Our publisher, Simon and Schuster, is anxious to receive the cleared manuscript from us and is planning on publishing the book in early May. Given the logistical challenges of the publishing industry, that means we would need to have any clearance issues resolved by the end of December or at the latest the first week or two of January. We recognize this is an ambitious undertaking and appreciate your best efforts to meet those deadlines.

Sincerely,

A. Rodriguez,

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